

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SANTO 07590 281515Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /085 W

-----023155 281842Z /43

R 281440Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3068

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 7590

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINR, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER GRANTS CHRISTMAS PARDONS TO 60

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER GRANTED PARDONS TO 60 PRISONERS IN A DECREE SIGNED DECEMBER 23 AND MADE PUBLIC THE FOLLOWING DAY. DECEMBER 23 IS ONE OF THE THREE DAYS EACH YEAR (THE OTHERS ARE FEBRUARY 27, INDEPENDENCE DAY, AND AUGUST 16, RESTORATION DAY) ON WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSTITUTION TO EXERCISE SPECIAL PARDON POWERS. THE PRISONERS BENEFITED HAD BEEN HELD AT THE LA VICTORIA NATIONAL PENITENTIARY IN SANTO DOMINGO AS WELL AS PRISONS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

2. OF THOSE RELEASED, THREE HAVE KNOWN POLITICAL ANTECEDENTS, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE BEING HELD FOR PURELY CRIMINAL OFFENSES: RICARDO ENRIQUE ESPINAL MEDINA--UNDER DETENTION FOR THE ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING, MAY 1973, OF THE THEN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION--HE ADMITTED THE ATTEMPT WAS AIMED AT FREEING HAMLET HERMAN, HELD AT THE TIME FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FRANCISCO CAAMANO GUERRILLA INCURSION; MIGUEL DANILO JIMENEZ JAQUEZ--MEMBER OF THE TRINITARIOS TERRORIST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SANTO 07590 281515Z

GROUP, HELD FOR INVOLVEMENT IN A BANK ROBBERY IN WHICH A GUARD WAS KILLED; NICOLAS PETRONIO CASTILLO--MEMBER OF COMMUNIST DOMINICAN POPULAR MOVEMENT (MPD), ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN A 1971 BANK ROBBERY. BOTH JIMENEZ JAQUEZ AND CASTILLO WERE MENTIONED TO CONGRESSIONAL AND WOLA (WASHINGTON OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA) STAFFERS WHO PARTICIPATED PRIVATELY IN A SEMINAR GIVEN BY PRD OPPOSITION

PARTY IN OCTOBER.

3. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PARDON WAS AMCIT THEODORE W. DENT, ARRESTED ON NARCOTICS CHARGE IN JULY. OTHERS ON THE PARDON LIST ARE COMMON CRIMINALS.

4. THE PARDONS ARE A NORMAL ELEMENT OF THE DOMINICAN CHRISTMAS AMBIENCE OF PEACE, BROTHERHOOD, AND NATIONAL CONCORD. THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PARDONS THIS CHRISTMAS, HOWEVER, IS SOMETHING OF A DISAPPOINTMENT IN LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS CIRCLES. NUMEROUS LEFT WING GROUPS AND SOME OF THE AFTERNOON DAILIES HAD COMPAIGNED FOR THE RELEASE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PRISONERS, AND WIDELY CIRCULATED STORY SAID THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD RECOMMENDED A LIST OF 430 INDIVIDUALS FOR PARDON TO THE NATIONAL PALACE. THERE IS NOW SPECULATION THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY HAVE WISHED TO WITHHOLD ANY LARGE SCALE AMNESTY UNTIL FEBRUARY 27, A DATE CLOSER TO THE MAY ELECTIONS.
HURWITCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, AMNESTY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO07590
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770483-0809
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771212/aaaaajeb.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 21f95dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 120500
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BALAGUER GRANTS CHRISTMAS PARDONS TO 60
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINR, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21f95dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009